

REMARKS***Summary of the Amendment***

Upon entry of the instant response, claim 31 will have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1 – 33 currently remain pending. However, as the Examiner has withdrawn claims 1 – 17, directed to the non-elected species, only claims 18 – 33 are currently under consideration.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has withdrawn claims 1 – 17, directed to the none-elected species, from consideration, and rejected claims 18 – 33 over the art of record. By the present amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)***1. Over Young***

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 18 – 21, 24, 27, and 29 – 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by YOUNG (U.S. Patent No. 5,096,127). The Examiner asserts that Figure 4 of YOUNG shows a pressurized screen, as recited in the pending claims. Applicants traverse the Examiner's assertions.

Applicants' independent claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, a centrifuge rotor positioned in said intake chamber, said centrifugal rotor being structured as a disk oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap through which at least a part the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element. Further, Applicants' independent claim 31, as currently

amended, recites, *inter alia*, a centrifuge rotor positioned in said intake chamber, said centrifugal rotor being structured and arranged to pass the portions of the fibrous suspension to be passed and rejected by said at least one wire element by drawing the portions of the fibrous suspension radially inwardly through a gap formed between said centrifuge rotor and said at least one wire element, and to reject the remainder of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber. Applicants submit that YOUNG fails to anticipate at least the above-noted features of the instant invention.

Applicants note that, as the rotor of YOUNG is formed as a cylinder with radial blades so as to draw the suspension into the wire basket in an axial direction, YOUNG fails to disclose *a rotor structured as a disk oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap through which at least a part of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element*, as recited in at least independent claim 18. Moreover, in view of the above-noted structure of the rotor of YOUNG, Applicants submit that this document fails to disclose a centrifugal rotor structured and arranged to pass the portions of the fibrous suspension to be passed and rejected by said at least one wire element *by drawing the portions of the fibrous suspension radially inwardly through a gap formed between said centrifuge rotor and said at least one wire element*, as recited in at least independent claims 18 and 31.

Because YOUNG fails to disclose at least the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicants submit that this document fails to show each and every recited feature of the invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and that the instant rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 19 – 21, 24, 27, 29, and 30 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicants submit that YOUNG fails to anticipate, *inter alia*, said portion of the fibrous suspension passing said at least one wire element is based on dimensions of fibrous material particles with the fibrous suspension, as recited in claim 19; said fibrous material particles comprise fibers, as recited in claim 20; said centrifugal rotor comprises a driven centrifuge rotor, as recited in claim 21; said disk is closed, as recited in claim 24; an outside diameter of said centrifuge rotor is at least a same size of an outside diameter of said at least one wire element, as recited in claim 27; further comprising radially extending centrifuge ribs coupled to said centrifuge rotor, as recited in claim 29; and an outside diameter of said centrifuge rotor comprises toothed blades, as recited in claim 30.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 19 – 21, 24, 27, and 29 – 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over YOUNG and indicate that these claims are allowable.

2. Over Rienecker

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 18 – 28 and 31 – 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by RIENECKER et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069985) [hereinafter “RIENECKER”]. The Examiner asserts that Figures 1 and 7 of RIENECKER shows a pressurized screen, as recited in the pending claims. Applicants traverse the Examiner’s assertions.

Applicants note that RIENECKER discloses a rotating prescreen having a conical shape. However, Applicants note that REINECKER fails to provide any disclosure of a rotor structured as a disk, or of a gap formed between the rotor and the wire through which the suspension is drawn radially inwardly, as recited in at least independent claims 18 and 31.

Because RIENECKER fails to disclose at least the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicants submit that this document fails to show each and every recited feature of the invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and that the instant rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 19 – 28, 32, and 33 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicants submit that RIENECKER fails to anticipate, *inter alia*, said portion of the fibrous suspension passing said at least one wire element is based on dimensions of fibrous material particles with the fibrous suspension, as recited in claim 19; said fibrous material particles comprise fibers, as recited in claim 20; said centrifugal rotor comprises a driven centrifuge rotor, as recited in claim 21; said ring-shaped gap has an axial width of at most 100 mm, as recited in claim 22; said axial width of said ring-shaped gap is at most 10 mm, as recited in claim 23; said disk is closed, as recited in claim 24; further comprising a drivable wire scraper structured and arranged to keep said at least one wire element clear, as recited in claim 25; said drivable wire

scraper and said centrifuge rotor are connected to a same rotor, as recited in claim 26; an outside diameter of said centrifuge rotor is at least a same size of an outside diameter of said at least one wire element, as recited in claim 27; said outside diameter of said centrifugal rotor is at least 1.2 times the size of said outside diameter of said at least one wire element, as recited in claim 28; further comprising a drivable wire scraper structured and arranged to keep said at least one wire element clear, as recited in claim 32; and said drivable wire scraper and said centrifuge rotor are connected to a same rotor drive, as recited in claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 19 – 28 and 31 – 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over RIENECKER and indicate that these claims are allowable.

Application is Allowable

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention.

Authorization to Charge Deposit Account

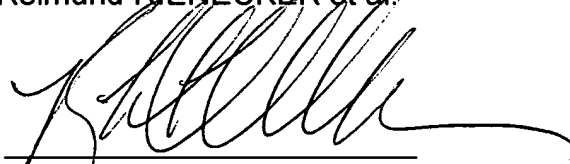
The undersigned authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, including any extensions of time fees required to place the application in condition for allowance by Examiner's Amendment, to Deposit Account No. 19 - 0089 in order to maintain pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention, as recited in each of claims 18 – 33. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
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